

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Legislator Spencer speaks with the installation crew at the Von Barta's home



Legislator Spencer speaks with Lydia and John Von Barta

Huntington Residents are Picked to Receive Advanced Water Treatment System as Part of County's Program to Combat Nitrogen Pollution

Huntington Bay, NY – As part of an ongoing County-wide effort to improve our water quality, Lydia and John Von Barta were selected at random to receive the free system in the second phase of the County's Septic Demonstration Program for single family homeowners. The Von Barta's were excited to welcome Legislator Spencer to their home to look on as a crew replaced their cesspool with an advanced water treatment system.

"This installation represents the culmination of years of hard work by the county to test and approve innovative systems that will better treat our waste water and protect our drinking water and surface waters. It's wonderful to see the system going into the ground knowing that in the coming days it will be fully functional and will reduce the nitrogen discharge by as much as 50%. This is a win for Suffolk County residents and for our environment," stated Legislator William R. Spencer, M.D.

With more than 360,000 homes in Suffolk County utilizing cesspools for their wastewater, Long Island has suffered the results of nitrogen pollution as seen in the multiple strains of harmful and toxic algae such as brown tides and red tides. The installation is part of Suffolk County's Reclaim Our Water initiative which is a comprehensive plan to improve the region's water quality by reducing nitrogen pollution with advanced on-site treatment systems and sewerage select areas.

The Suffolk Legislature recently unanimously approved a \$10 million grant program to assist homeowners in paying for the innovative systems. Coming July 1st the grant applications for homeowners will become available electronically. Visit <http://reclaimourwater.info/> for more information.

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